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'SAC Photos Saved Peace'

Ex-CIA Official Tells Of Cuban Crisis

World-Herald Washington Bureau, Suite 1217 National Press Building.

Photographs taken by Strategic Air Command pilots in flights over Cuba during the 1962 missile crisis "proved to be one of the intelligence ingredients that may have been the difference between a nuclear war and peace."

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, former executive director of the Central Intelligence Agency, attaches that importance to the photographs in a new book, "The Real CIA."

He does not mention the Strategic Air Command in any of his references to the high-flying U-2 spy plane.

But the fact that SAC pilots did fly photographic missions over Cuba in the tense 1962 period is not only widely known but a matter of record.

Early in 1964, for example, the Air Force Cross was awarded posthumously to Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr., a SAC flier who was killed when his U-2 crashed on one of the flights.

Based in Florida

The decoration was presented to his wife by Gen. Thomas S. Power, then the SAC commander-in-chief.

The citation accompanying it said:

"While executing these aerial missions, Major Anderson made photographs which provided conclusive evidence of the introduction of long-range offensive missiles into Cuba and which materially assisted our leaders in charting the nation's military and diplomatic course."

Photographs of the deployment of Soviet missiles led to a confrontation with Russia when President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba.

During this period and after the crisis began to subside, SAC kept U-2's based in Florida, it was later reported.

Credits Bissell

Mr. Kirkpatrick credits Richard Bissell, the former deputy director of plans for CIA, with making the U-2 possible.

"Bissell's genius produced the U-2 and vast amounts of information vital to national security," he writes.

He recalls the international uproar when Francis Powers, a pilot on the CIA pay roll, crashed near Sverdlovsk, Russia, in one of the planes in 1960.

"This caused one of the most momentous flaps that I witnessed during my time in the Federal Government," reports Mr. Kirkpatrick.

He says Mr. Powers "conducted himself with dignity during his interrogation and trial and revealed nothing to the Russians that they did not already know."

Shocked Many

"Francis Powers and the others who flew the plane deserve full credit for their courage and ability," he adds.

The U-2 incident in Russia shocked many persons, who disapproved of such intelligence activities, the ex-CIA official notes.

"But even those skeptics were consoled after the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 when the U-2 was put back on the mantel of respectability after its photography proved to be one of the intelligence ingredients that may have been the difference between a nuclear war and peace," he writes.

Lyman B.

Soc. 4.012 The Real CIA

CIA.1.05 Bissell,

Richard

C.I.A.1.04 Powers,

Francis

C.I.A.4.02 U-2